



THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST LAURENCE LUDLOW



SUNDAY 5 JANUARY 2025

EPIPHANY

CHORAL EUCHARIST 10am

Revd Andrew Body *President & Preacher*

Michael Oakley *Director of Music*

Richard Walker *Organist*

The Choir of St Laurence's

WELCOME

We warmly welcome you to St Laurence's, especially if you are a visitor or newcomer to our congregation. Please be aware that this service will be live-streamed and the recording will be available on YouTube afterwards.

During communion all are welcome to come forward to receive if you have been baptised in any Christian church, all others are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please note communion will be offered in both kinds. Intinction by individuals is not permitted, following the hygiene guidance issued by the Church of England.

St Laurence's is an inclusive church, and everyone is welcome. If you need any assistance accessing our services, please ask one of the stewards.

Children are always welcome in St Laurence's and there is a children's area in the North aisle with toys, games and art materials available for use at any time.

A toilet, including facilities for people with disabilities, is in the North aisle of the Church.

No Photography or Recording is allowed during this service.

A donation to support the work of this church including gift aid envelopes can be placed in the basket either before the service begins or as you leave; donations made before the service will be presented at the appropriate point; your contribution is greatly appreciated. You can also donate by text, by sending STLL22 (add amount) to 70070, eg to donate £5, text STLL £5 to 70070.

Thank you for your support



If you use a hearing aid please switch to the 'T' position and you will be tuned into the induction loop system.

St Laurence's is an inclusive church in which all are welcome

*Picture on front cover: The Magi Approaching Herod; anon from East Anglia c1190–1200
Tempera colours and gold leaf on parchment
J Paul Getty Museum, Malibu, California*

THE GATHERING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore be led to thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy-seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy cradle rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

4. Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way,
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds thy glory hide.

5. In the heavenly country bright
need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown,
thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
alleluias to our King.

William Chatterton Dix 1837–1898

DIX

THE GREETING

In the name of the ☩ Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
**From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

The Lord of glory be with you.
The Lord bless you

Let us pray

Please sit

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your **Holy Spirit,**
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through **Christ our Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your name.
Amen.

ABSOLUTION

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon ☩ and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

If you are able, please stand

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

The Choir sings

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son Jesu Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Communion Service in E 'Collegium Regale'

Harold Darke 1888-1976

COLLECT

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 60.1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Choir sings

PSALM 72 10-15 *Deus, judicium*

10. The kings of Tharsis and of the isles shall give presents: the kings of Arabia and Saba shall bring gifts.

11. All kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall do him service.

12. For he shall deliver the poor when he crieth: the needy also, and him that hath no helper.

13. He shall be favourable to the simple and needy: and shall preserve the souls of the poor.

14. He shall deliver their souls from falsehood and wrong: and dear shall their blood be in his sight.

15. He shall live, and unto him shall be given of the gold of Arabia: prayer shall be made ever unto him, and daily shall he be praised.

NEW TESTAMENT READING
Ephesians 3.1-12

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles - for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

If you are able, please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1st time Choir

2nd time Choir & Congregation



Choir

Christ was revealed in flesh, proclaimed among the nations
and believed in throughout the world.

Repeat Alleluia

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2.1-12

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary

his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



Please sit

SERMON

A Silence is kept

If you are able, please stand

THE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism
for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Please sit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response after each bidding

Lord in your mercy or
Hear our prayer

Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

And at the end

Merciful Father
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

If you are able, please stand

THE PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star:

*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

2. Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
king for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign:

Refrain

3. Frankincense to offer have I,
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high:

Refrain

4. Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb:

Refrain

5. Glorious now behold him arise,
king and God and sacrifice.
Heaven sings: 'Alleluia';
'Alleluia,' the earth replies:

Refrain

J H Hopkins 1820-1891

THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise of Jesus Christ,
our light and our salvation.

Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

All honour and praise be yours always and everywhere,
mighty creator, ever-living God,
through Jesus Christ your only Son our Lord:
for at this time we celebrate your glory
made present in our midst.

In the coming of the Magi
the King of all the world was revealed to the nations.

In the waters of baptism
Jesus was revealed as the Christ,
the Saviour sent to redeem us.

In the water made wine
the new creation was revealed at the wedding feast.

Poverty was turned to riches, sorrow into joy.

Therefore with all the angels of heaven
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

The Choir sings

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Communion Service in E 'Collegium Regale'

Harold Darke 1888-1976

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;

who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Jesus Christ is Lord:
**Lord, by your cross and resurrection
you have set us free.
You are the Saviour of the world.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our
redemption.

As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please sit

Silence is kept

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Believing the promises of God,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

AGNUS DEI

The Choir sings

○ Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
○ Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
○ Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Communion Service in E 'Collegium Regale'

Harold Darke 1888-1976

Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

The people receive communion.

Communicant members of any Christian Church are welcome to receive communion here. All others are invited to come for a blessing, holding this service sheet.

ANTHEM

The Choir sings

"When He is King we will give him the Kings' gifts,
Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown,
Beautiful robes," said the young girl to Joseph,
Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down.

Bethlehem Down is full of the starlight,
Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold,
Mary for sleep, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

When he is King they will clothe him in grave-sheets,
Myrrh for embalming and wood for a crown,
He that lies now in the white arms of Mary
Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down.

Here he has peace and a short while for dreaming,
Close-huddled oxen to keep him from cold,
Mary for love, and for lullaby music
Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

Bruce Blunt 1899-1957

Peter Warlock 1894–1930

Silence is kept

POST COMMUNION COLLECT

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

If you are able, please stand when directed

THE DISMISSAL

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Christ our Lord, to whom kings bowed down in worship and offered gifts,
reveal to you his glory and pour upon you the riches of his grace;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

We have seen his glory,
the glory revealed to all the nations.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

2. Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker and Monarch and Saviour of all.

3. Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
gems of the mountain, and pearls of the ocean,
myrrh from the forest, or gold from the mine?

4. Vainly we offer each ample oblation,
vainly with gifts would his favour secure:
richer by far is the heart's adoration,
dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.

5. Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber 1783-1826

EPHIPHANY

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Paeon

Percy Whitlock 1903-1946

Please join us for coffee after the service

Choral Evensong – Today at 3.30pm

Responses: Ayleward

Canticles: Stanford in C

Anthem: 'Evening Hymn' - Balfour Gardiner

Next Sunday's Services

8.15am Holy Communion (BCP)

10am Parish Communion



An inclusive church welcoming everyone



St Laurence's is committed to the goals of a Fairtrade Church. We use fairtrade communion wine, tea, coffee, sugar and other products where possible. We hold regular Fair Trade stalls and events promoting Fairtrade

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